

perfunctory oral examination may be sufficient to secure a physicians' and surgeons' license for osteopaths who are otherwise eligible.

The first examination of osteopaths under this new provision will be held in Los Angeles early in October. The medical profession of the state will be keenly interested to see what type of examination is given and whether the Board of Medical Examiners allows the language of the law as heretofore stated to prove a loop-hole. The JOURNAL will publish the results of the examination and other information concerning it as it is realized that this is of no small interest and importance to the medical profession of the entire state. The Board of Medical Examiners is commissioned with the onerous and responsible duty of maintaining and promoting the standard of medical practice in the state. To that end they have the cordial interest and should merit the constant support of the medical profession. It is to be hoped that this coming examination will set another high standard, and will establish a clear policy of adequate and thorough examination. We shall have more to say at a later time regarding the character of efficient medical examinations.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

All papers read before the State Society are the property of the State Medical Journal, unless by action of the Publication Committee they are not found available for publication. The Publication Committee may reject any paper submitted, whether it be from a State Society meeting, a county society meeting, or written solely for publication. The editor may accept any paper he sees fit but can not reject, this latter being a function of the Committee. It is greatly to be hoped that no paper will be allowed to be presented at the State Society meeting at Del Monte next April, unless the original copy of it is already in the hands of the secretary of the section before which it is read. Many state papers from the last meeting have not yet been submitted for publication. No special effort will be made this year to gather in the missing papers because of the unduly crowded space in the JOURNAL. In this connection, it is hoped that the larger size of the JOURNAL may be continued long enough to relieve the congestion and eventually become permanent.

In another column will be found a notice from the Committee on Scientific Work making certain suggestions for the preparation of papers for the next annual meeting. These suggestions are good and timely, and the Committee will do well to present the matter again and at more length. The same suggestions to a certain extent are applicable to all papers presented for publication in the JOURNAL. While it is not the policy of the Publication Committee to make the JOURNAL ultra-scientific, or to insist on a preference for research and new results in manuscripts submitted, still it is felt that the JOURNAL space is too valuable to be devoted to mere text book descriptions which can be better read in a standard volume.

Papers should be condensed by leaving out every

word, phrase and paragraph which does not contribute constructively to the argument developed. Every sentence must be clear and express a definite idea. Spelling and punctuation must receive proper attention. Typing, margins, double spacing, paragraphing,—all must be clear and carefully worked over before submitting. The cardinal sin of the medical writer is verbosity. Avoid it. Many excellent papers have been returned for slight alteration or modification which would considerably enhance their value and would insure their acceptance for publication. All references should be numbered serially through the paper, and give only,—author, journal, year, volume, page. Above all, the medical writer should clothe his argument, as Thomas Hobbes advised, in "perspicuous words by exact definition first purged and snuffed from ambiguity."

The scope of papers accepted is broad and is designed to furnish practical instruction to the general practitioner, especially in smaller towns, as well as to men specializing in cities.

#### THE UNHYGIENIC COLON.

The physiological and bacteriological storms which have raged of late years about the colon would of themselves give importance to that organ even if the first reflection did not show conclusively that there is some occasion for regarding it as Kellogg, in the preface of his book on "Colon Hygiene," says: "An incubating chamber of poison forming germs, a hold of unclean and hateful parasites, a veritable Pandora's box of disease and degeneracy." From absolute ablation as a panacea, to a complete disregard of the organ unless it shall not have emptied itself in a week or more, there is a whole range of phenomena which may appear as symptoms and of remedial agents which may be used with effective results.

It is worth while for the physician to remember that the colon is not unhygienic merely because of the presence of bacteria. It is becoming known that processes of digestion depend, to an as yet unknown degree, on the action of bacterial enzymes directly on foods. Metchnikoff's endeavor to replace the abnormal bacterial inhabitants of the colon with beneficent organisms is in line with the present trend of investigation.

But while bacteria are a necessary factor in the physiology of the colon, they are also the cause of abnormal conditions through products which may cause, or predispose to disease. Here is the place filled with fads and fancies, some scientific and more pure fancy. All of the internal baths, and colon irrigators on the market today but voice this truth. A half assimilated idea is often worse than none at all, and a pseudo-scientific sensational exploitation of the idea that the colon must be cleansed at any cost, and that this can actually be done, is usually an accompaniment simply of a commercial desire to trade on the authority of science for money making purposes.

There is a legitimate field for colon hygiene, however, and this too must not be forgotten by the practitioner. Kellogg discusses in general from a